

Carpenters' Company New Hall
Rear of 322 Chestnut Street and
Carpenters' Court
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1398-B

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CARPENTERS' COMPANY, NEW HALL

HABS No. PA-1398-B

Location: Rear of 322 Chestnut Street and Carpenters' Court, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

New Hall was located on the west side of Carpenters' Court leading from the south side of Chestnut Street between Third and Fourth Streets. At the head of the court, and adjacent to New Hall, is Carpenters' Hall.

Carpenters' Hall was built in 1770 by and for the use of the Carpenters' Company, a carpenters' craft guild operated for social and cultural purposes. In 1791 the First Bank of the United States acquired the tenancy of Carpenters' Hall in its entirety as a temporary home, thereby forcing the Carpenters' Company to seek additional space for its activities. A site on the west side of Carpenters' Court and adjacent to the Main Hall (Carpenters' Hall) was selected. Here in 1791 the Company constructed a two-story brick building in Flemish bond.

The structure measured approximately 60' X 20'. It consisted of two stories and a cellar. The first floor contained three rooms and an entrance hall; the second floor had one "long room".

New Hall's first tenant was the War Department. In November 1791 the latter under General Knox, President Washington's first Secretary of War, occupied the lower story. The Carpenters' Company used the second floor as a meeting hall and continued to do so until 1857. During the years 1795 and 1800 and also in the nineteenth century numerous social, cultural, religious and educational organizations rented space in New Hall.

During the nineteenth century two stories were added to New Hall and over the years the building underwent extensive repairs. In 1957 and 1958, the structure, then in a very poor condition with little of the original building intact, was torn down to make way for a reconstructed New Hall. The latter is now the home of the United States Marine Corps Museum.

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